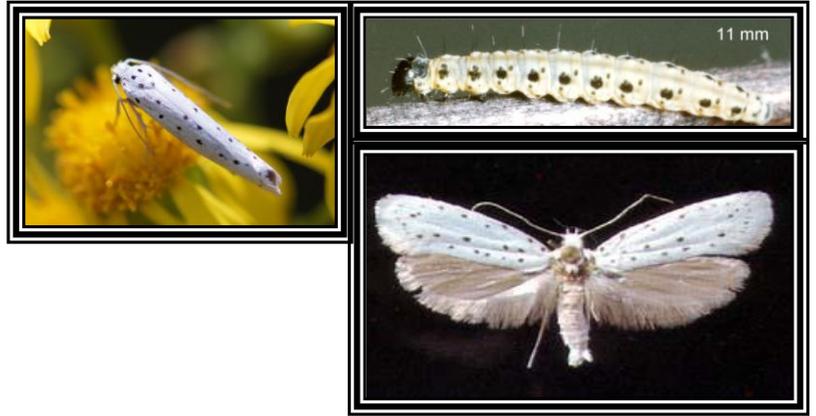


## APPLE ERMINE MOTH

NOT KNOWN TO  
OCCUR IN IDAHO



**Common Name:** Apple ermine moth

**Scientific Name:** *Yponomeuta malinellus* (Linnaeus)

The apple ermine moth is an introduced pest of Eurasian origin. It was first found in northwestern Washington, in the summer of 1985. By 1989, it had been detected in Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, Snohomish, Island, and King counties and in the lower Frazer River Valley in British Columbia.

**Hosts** Apple ermine moth attacks apple and crab apple (*Malus* spp.)

### Life stages

**Egg:** Freshly laid egg masses are light-yellow. They change to bright-red within about two weeks, then fade to a cryptic-gray, which is difficult to see on apple tree bark.

**Larva:** The larva is a caterpillar varying from gray to dark-green or cream in color, with dark spots along its sides. It develops through five instars, and when mature, is about 3/4 inch long. The caterpillars feed within a communal web.

**Pupa:** The pupae, which have white cocoons, hang in clusters within the web.

**Adult:** The adult has silvery white forewings with rows of small black spots. Its wing span is about 3/4 inch.

### Life history

Apple ermine moths overwinter as young larvae underneath egg masses that the females deposited on tree bark the previous summer. The larvae sometimes feed on bark under the egg mass. In early spring, larvae emerge from the protective covering, or hibernaculum, and move to nearby developing leaves. At first, they mine the leaves, but towards the end of the bloom period, they begin to feed within communal webs, like tent caterpillars. The webs expand to engulf more and more leaves and can be as large as a tennis ball. Apple ermine moth caterpillars may spin several tents in each tree, where as the tent caterpillar may produce one or very few large ones.

The larvae continue feeding in this fashion until June, when they pupate. Pupating caterpillars line themselves up neatly in tightly-packed clusters. Adult moths begin to emerge in June, and females lay eggs from July into September.

**Damage:** If tents and larvae are numerous enough, a tree can be seriously defoliated

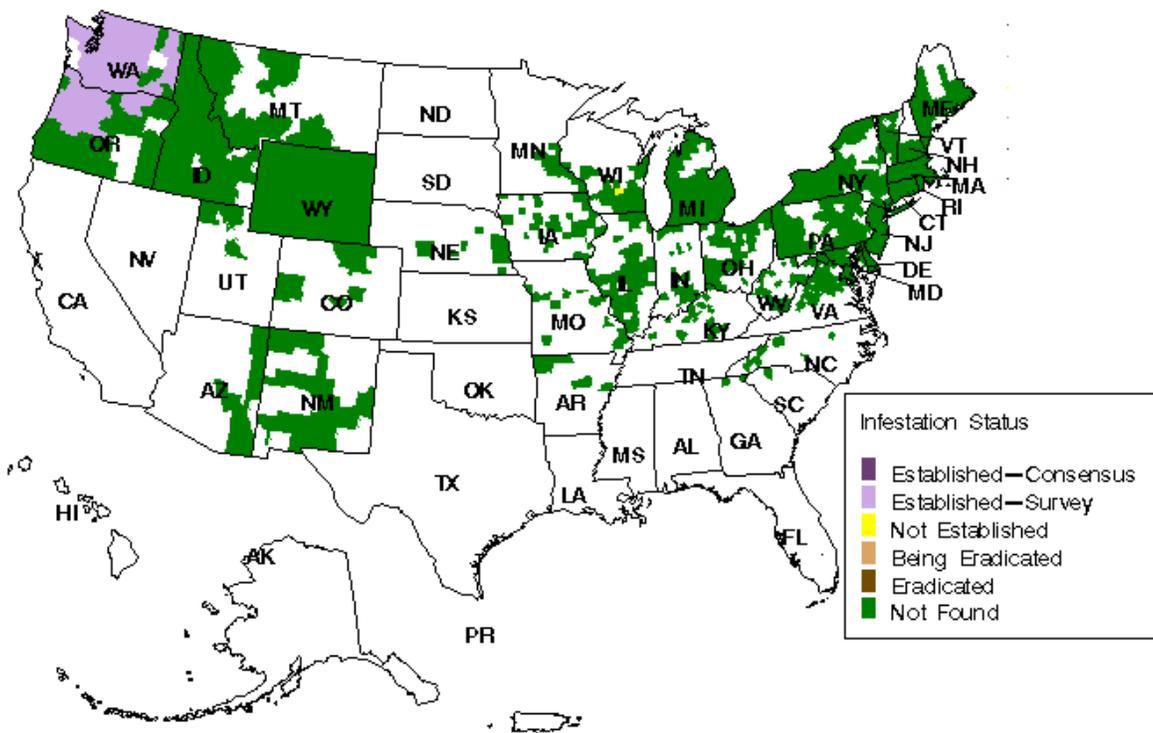
**Other Resources:**

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/applefieldguide.htm>

<http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/displaySpecies.php?pn=620/>

**Reported Status of  
Apple Ermine Moth (AEM) , *Yponomeuta malinellus*  
in US and Puerto Rico**

Data retrieved from National Agricultural Pest Information System on 01/17/2012



The Center for Environmental and Regulatory Information Systems does not certify the accuracy or completeness of the map.